



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION
LANSING

JUDY KARANDJEFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 12, 2009

Representative Mark Meadow
374 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Meadows:

The Michigan Women's Commission is proud to support HB 4835 and HB 4836, which will substitute the current proscription on ethnic intimidation with a prohibition on bias-motivated crime and establish penalties for violating the new provisions. This legislation will expand the categories of groups for which a crime could be a bias-motivated crime.

The category expansion under HB 4836 is of particular interest to the Michigan Women's Commission because disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression of gender were not included under ethnic intimidation. Women who are within the disabled community and in other categories will be recognized as victims of bias-motivated crimes, whereas under ethnic intimidation they are not. Women within the communities stated above will also have greater recourse when they are victims of a bias-motivated crime, whereas currently under ethnic intimidation they do not.

The Commission agrees with the replacement of ethnic intimidation with bias-motivated crime and with the expansion of target group characteristics. Please let us know what we can do to help. Thank you for having a hearing on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Karandjeff", written over a horizontal line.

Judy Karandjeff
Executive Director